

**THE CITY OF WARWICK**  
**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**NO..... DATE.....**

**APPROVED.....MAYOR**

**RESOLUTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN ADMINISTRATORS OF THE WARWICK  
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Resolved that,**

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the educators, administrators and School Committee members in the Warwick School District hold the public trust and responsibility for professional practices that should demonstrate ethical conduct in the education and treatment of Warwick students; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Warwick wholly expect a student-centered school district where children will learn and flourish in a safe, courteous environment that is free from all forms of harassment and bullying from their peers and all adults; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Department of Education Bylaws § G-14-2 requires the Local Educational Agency “to create a climate of safety, security and belonging for all students and adults, thereby establishing an environment that builds respectful relationships, enhances productive learning and teaching, promotes school engagement and academic success”; and

WHEREAS, protocols have been established to ensure each RI school district conforms to statewide standards while individual administrators, staff and educators do not breach proper boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Educator Code of Professional Responsibility emphasizes the requirement to maintain a professional relationship with students at all times, both in and outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, evaluation criterion for administrators and educators includes the demonstration of respect for everyone in all actions and interactions; advocating for students’ best interests; acting ethically and with integrity while following all school district and state policies; and modeling strong leadership qualities while engaging in actions that reflect the values of the district; and

1 WHEREAS, a recently suspended Gorton Junior High School teacher violated temporal,  
2 communication and relationship boundaries in addition to prevention of sexual harassment policies  
3 with two female students when he drew a picture of a penis on one girl and feces on another. Said  
4 action could be construed as child endangerment, could cause emotional damage to the child which  
5 could lead to a lack of self esteem, serve to desensitize children to inappropriate conduct between  
6 adults and children, encourage instances of sexual harassment, lay a foundation of bullying and  
7 name-calling by fellow students and confuse students regarding respectful and socially acceptable  
8 behavior; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Warwick School District, Director of Secondary  
11 Education and Compliance Officer failed to take suitable measures in this flagrant and outrageous  
12 violation of State and District policies, including mandatory reporting to DCYF, in further violation  
13 of the public trust. This lack of decisive disciplinary action arbitrarily places the teacher's needs  
14 above the student's interests, broadcasts the message that selective inappropriate touching of students  
15 and sexualizing the workplace/classroom is tolerated while creating an ethical, respectful learning  
16 environment for children is optional. Furthermore, the Superintendent's description of said teacher as  
17 having "an unblemished record" is an affront to the entire Warwick School District.  
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19 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warwick City Council hereby takes a vote  
20 of "No Confidence" in the leadership abilities of the current Superintendent, Director of Secondary  
21 Education and District Compliance Officer for failure to consistently enforce standards and policies  
22 designed to ensure a safe and respectful environment for children. There is "no confidence" in the  
23 Superintendent, Director of Secondary Education and District Compliance Officer to take consistent  
24 appropriate disciplinary action in instances of sexual harassment/bullying of students by teachers.  
25 There is "no confidence" in the Superintendent, Director of Secondary Education and District  
26 Compliance Officer to provide consistent full disclosure to the Warwick School Committee on the  
27 misconduct of School District employees that may result in litigation. There is "no confidence" in the  
28 Superintendent, Director of Secondary Education and District Compliance Officer to provide  
29 consistent full disclosure to the Mayor of the City of Warwick on the misconduct of School District  
30 employees that may result in litigation. There is "no confidence" in the Superintendent, Director of  
31 Secondary Education and District Compliance Officer to present consistent truthful characterization  
32 of School District employees.  
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34 The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Members of the  
35 School Committee of the City of Warwick.  
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37 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.  
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41 SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN VELLA-WILKINSON  
42 COUNCILWOMAN USLER  
43 COUNCIL PRESIDENT TRAVIS  
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45 COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL